

# Exodus 12:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, that at midnight the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle.

## Analysis

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The phrase 'at midnight' emphasizes the precise timing of God's judgment—not gradual or uncertain, but sudden and exact. 'The LORD smote all the firstborn' fulfills the warned judgment (Exodus 4:23, 11:5). The comprehensive scope—from the firstborn of Pharaoh...unto the firstborn of the captive...and all the firstborn of cattle—demonstrates no Egyptian escaped, regardless of rank. Divine judgment is no respecter of persons.

## Historical Context

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Midnight placed the judgment in complete darkness, heightening terror. The death of Pharaoh's own firstborn (likely crown prince) personally broke Egypt's ruler. Captives' firstborn died despite having no power or responsibility for enslaving Israel.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does the judgment falling on all ranks of society illustrate that sin levels humanity before God?
2. What does the sudden, midnight timing teach about judgment arriving when least expected?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיְהִי יוֹם H1961	בַּחֹצֵי יָ H2677	הַלַּיְלָה H3915	וַיַּהַרְגֵהוּ H3068	הַכֹּהֵן H5221	כָּל H3605
	And it came to pass that at midnight		the LORD	smote	
בְּכָל אוֹר H1060	בְּאֶרֶץ H776	מִצְרַיִם H4714	בְּכָל אוֹר H1060	פַּרְעֹה H6547	הַיֹּשֵׁב בָּ H3427
all the firstborn	in the land	of Egypt	all the firstborn	of Pharaoh	that sat
עַל H5921	כִּסֵּא וֹ H3678	עַד H5704	בְּכָל אוֹר H1060	הַשֶּׁבִי י H7628	אִשְׁרָ H834
on his throne		all the firstborn	of the captive		
בְּבֵית H1004	הַבַּיִת H953	וְכָל לֵב H3605	בְּכָל אוֹר H1060	בְּהֵמָה: H929	
that was in the dungeon			all the firstborn	of cattle	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 78:51** (References Egypt): And smote all the firstborn in Egypt; the chief of their strength in the tabernacles of Ham:

**Exodus 4:23** (Parallel theme): And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn.

**Psalms 136:10** (References Egypt): To him that smote Egypt in their firstborn: for his mercy endureth for ever:

**Psalms 135:8** (References Egypt): Who smote the firstborn of Egypt, both of man and beast.

**Psalms 105:36** (Parallel theme): He smote also all the firstborn in their land, the chief of all their strength.

**Numbers 8:17** (References Egypt): For all the firstborn of the children of Israel are mine, both man and beast: on the day that I smote every firstborn in the land of Egypt I sanctified them for myself.

**Numbers 33:4** (References Lord): For the Egyptians buried all their firstborn, which the LORD had smitten among them: upon their gods also the LORD executed judgments.

**Exodus 12:12** (References Lord): For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.